

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1           1.       Apparatus for producing printing plates, comprising:  
2                   a frame,  
3                   a mounting arranged in said frame;  
4                   a carrier cylinder having a first end and a second end, said carrier  
5 cylinder being cantilever mountable on said mounting via said first end of said carrier cylinder;  
6                   a motor for driving said carrier cylinder; and  
7                   an image setting device moveable along said carrier cylinder for setting  
8 an image on a blank printing plate arranged on said carrier cylinder, said second end of said  
9 carrier cylinder being is freely accessible to permit printing plate change on said carrier  
10 cylinder.

1           2.       The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mounting includes a  
2 carrying tube fixed in said frame and a spindle mounted in said carrying tube, said spindle  
3 being connected to said carrier cylinder and said motor being arranged in said carrying tube  
4 and having a drive connection to said spindle.

1           3.       The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said motor is fixed in said  
2 frame and said carrier includes a journal, and said apparatus further comprises an external  
3 flexible drive connecting said motor to said journal of said carrier cylinder.

1                   4.       The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier cylinder is  
2   operatively arranged for receiving a sleeve-like printing plate that can be clamped onto said  
3   carrier cylinder, said carrier cylinder having holes arranged in a cover thereof for blowing  
4   compressed air against a printing plate inner wall incident printing plate change.

1                   5.       The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier cylinder  
2   includes a clamping device for clamping a finite printing plate onto said carrier cylinder.

1                   6.       The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said carrier cylinder is one  
2   of plural cylinders of different diameters which are mountable on said mounting.

1                   7.       The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said carrier cylinder is one  
2   of plural cylinders of different diameters which are mountable on said mounting.

1                   8.       The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising an intermediate  
2   sleeve borne on said carrier cylinder onto which said sleeve-like printing plate can be clamped,  
3   said intermediate sleeve being one of plural intermediate sleeves of different external diameter  
4   which can be borne on said carrier cylinder.

1                   9.       The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said carrier cylinder is  
2   operative for selectively receiving sleeve-like printing plates of different diameters.

1                   10.     The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier cylinder is  
2     operative for receiving one of an offset printing plate, a letterpress printing plate, a  
3     flexographic printing plate, and a gravure printing plate.

1                   11.     The apparatus of claim 10, wherein a surface of said carrier cylinder  
2     comprises said gravure printing plate.

1                   12.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a crossmember arranged in  
2     said frame parallel to an axis of rotation of said carrier cylinder, said image setting device  
3     being moveable on said crossmember.

1                   13.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an erasing device  
2     arrangement which is settable set against said carrier cylinder.

1                   14.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fixing device  
2     arrangement which is settable against said carrier cylinder.

1                   15.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a layer applicator device  
2     arrangement which is settable against said carrier cylinder.